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⑮ 発明の名称 粒剤およびその製造方法

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⑱ 発 明 者	植 田	真 澄	兵庫県神戸市北区筑紫が丘6丁目5番地の18
⑱ 発 明 者	中 村	康 彦	兵庫県宝塚市中山桜台2丁目5番7号
⑱ 発 明 者	牧 田	浩 和	奈良県奈良市右京5丁目5番4号
⑲ 出 願 人	大日本製薬株式会社 大阪府大阪市東区道修町3丁目25番地		
⑳ 代 理 人	弁理士 小島 一晃		

明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

粒剤およびその製造方法

2. 特許請求の範囲

(1) 不快な味の粉末状薬物40重量% (以下、単に%という) 以下、融点が30℃以上の脂質性物質2~40%、水溶性高分子物質3~20%および水膨潤性物質20~55%を少なくとも含有し、下記①ないし⑤の粘性状を有する不快な味が遮蔽された速溶性経口用粒剤:

- ① 該粒剤は全体としてマトリックスを形成している、
- ② 該粒剤中の脂質性物質は、粒子内で均一かつほぼ連続した状態で存在している、
- ③ 該粒剤の見かけ上の比重は約0.5~約0.7 g/cm³の範囲内にある、
- ④ 該粒剤は150メッシュの篩を通過する微粉末を実質的に含有しない、
- ⑤ 該粒剤の粒径は、主として約100~約1000 μmの範囲内にある、

⑥ 薬物として50mg相当量の該粒剤について、パドル法(試験液: 900 mlの水、回転数: 50rpm、温度: 37℃)による溶出試験を行うとき、15分間で85%以上の薬物が溶出する。

⑦ 不快な味の粉末状薬物がピリドンカルボン酸系抗凝固剤または抗てんかん剤であり、脂質性物質がシロキシ脂肪酸エステル、高級脂肪酸、硬化ヒマシ油、高級アルコールおよび/またはロウ類であり、水溶性高分子物質がメタアクリル酸エチル-メタアクリル酸塩化トリメチルアンモニウム共重合体、エチルセルロースおよび/またはヒドロキシプロピルメチルセルロースフタレートであり、水膨潤性物質が低置換度ヒドロキシプロピルセルロース、カルボキシメチルセルロースカルシウムおよび/またはポリビニルポリピロリドンである請求項1記載の粒剤。

⑧ 不快な味の粉末状薬物が5-アミノ-1-シクロプロピル-6,8-ジフルオロ-7-

本発明は不快な味が遮蔽された速溶性経口用薬剤に関する。

従来技術と解決課題

不快な味の経口用薬剤を服用し易い形に製剤化する方法は種々報告されている。例えば、被膜形成性高分子化合物および薬剤を含有するスラリーを担体に噴霧する固形医薬品の製造方法（特開昭51-79716）、被膜物質を高濃度に溶解した溶液に薬剤を分散し、これに粉末化剤を加えて粉末化する経口用医薬組成物の製法（特公昭58-401）、苦味マスク物質を非引火性塩素系有機溶剤に高濃度に溶解し、これに薬剤を加えて攪拌混合し、更に軽質無水ケイ酸を加えて混合後、粉末化し、次いでこの粉末に苦味マスク物質の溶液を加えて流動懸濁液処理する経口用製剤の製法（特公昭58-40529）、セルロースエーテルの溶液に低置換度セルロースエーテル類の粉末を分散させて得られるスラリーで薬剤を被覆する固形薬剤の被覆法（特開昭53-139715）、ステレンーマレイン酸共重合

解決する方法として、不快な味の粉末状薬剤と不快な味を遮蔽し得る粉末状物質とを混合し、これに該粉末状物質を溶解し得る有機溶媒を添加し、造粒後、有機溶媒を除去することからなる不快な味が遮蔽された経口用固形製剤の製造方法を開発した（特開昭63-150220）。

今回、本発明者らは、不快な味の遮蔽と薬剤の速みやかな溶出という相反する課題を同時に、しかも前記特開昭63-150220に開示の方法よりも有利に解決することについて種々検討し、本発明を完成した。

本発明の構成

本発明は不快な味の粉末状薬剤40重量%（以下単に%という）以下、融点が30℃以上の脂質性物質2～40%、水溶性高分子物質3～20%および水膨潤性物質20～55%を少なくとも含有し、下記①ないし⑤の諸性状を有する不快な味が遮蔽された速溶性経口用薬剤およびその製造方法に関する。

① 本発明の薬剤は全体としてマトリックス形成している。

(3,5-ジメチル-1-ビベラツニル)-1,4-ジヒドロ-4-オキソキノリン-3-カルボニル酸もしくはその水和物、エノキサシンまたはソニサミドであり、脂質性物質がショ糖脂肪酸エステルであり、水溶性高分子物質がメタアクリル酸エチル-メタアクリル酸塩化トリメチルアンモニウム共重合体であり、水膨潤性物質が低置換度ヒドロキシプロピルセルロースである請求項1または2記載の薬剤。

④ 少なくとも不快な味の粉末状薬剤40%以下、融点が30℃以上の脂質性物質2～40%、水溶性高分子物質3～20%および水膨潤性物質20～55%からなる混合粉末に有機溶媒を添加し、造粒後、有機溶媒を除去し、ついで加熱処理することを特徴とする請求項1記載の薬剤の製造方法。

⑤ 有機溶媒がエタノール、イソプロパノールおよび/またはシクロヘキサンである請求項4記載の製造方法。

3 発明の詳細な説明

体と包装材料とを溶解もしくは分散した有機溶媒に薬剤を溶解し、次いでこれを噴霧乾燥する被覆方法（特開昭49-132216）、薬剤ならびに水に膨潤するが溶解しない物質を分散したロウ状物質の溶融物をノズルより噴出し冷却固化する方法（特公昭60-29082）などの報告がある。これらの方法によって薬剤の不快な味、例えば苦味が遮蔽される。

上記の方法は、いずれも不快な味を遮蔽する物質を溶液、分散液あるいは溶融物の形で用いる点において共通している。不快な味を遮蔽する物質は一般に高分子の被膜形成性物質であることから、その溶液、分散液あるいは溶融物などを用いることは種々の問題をひきおこす。例えば、スプレージンの如き器具の目づまり、使用機器・器具の洗浄の困難性などによる悪い作業効率ならびに前記使用量の著しい増大などの問題が挙げられる。大量の有機溶媒の使用は、公害防止や火災防止の観点からみても決して好ましいことではない。

本発明者らは、以前、これらの諸問題を一挙に

このような一次粒剤は、次いで加熱処理に付される。この工程は30℃以上で0.5～12時間行われる。加熱は乾燥機(1～12時間)でもよいが、流動乾燥装置による加熱(0.5～3時間)が好ましい。この処理により、マトリックス中に分散していた脂質性物質は溶融され、冷却後、均一かつほぼ連続した状態で固化する。従って、加熱温度は脂質性物質の融点により変動する。脂質性物質としては、好ましくは40～90℃、特に好ましくは60～75℃で溶融するものが使用され、そのような特に好ましい脂質性物質の例としてはHLBが3以下のショ糖脂肪酸エステルが挙げられる。加熱処理により見かけ上の比重が約0.45～約0.55g/mlのもののが約0.5～約0.7g/mlとなり、150メッシュの篩を通過する微粉末は大きな粒子と融合ないし付着し、シャープな粒度分布をとり、粒径は主として約100～約1000μmの範囲となり、粒子の表面は滑らかで細孔も少なくなる。

加熱後、放冷冷却することにより、本発明の粒剤が効率よく製造できる。放冷中あるいはその前

後において、0.1～5%、好ましくは約1%のステアリン酸マグネシウムを添加すれば流動性の改善や帯電防止が図られ、更には、不快な味の遮蔽増強や溶出速度が改善されることもある。

本発明の効果

本発明方法は、有機溶媒の使用量が極めて少なくてすみ、しかも簡便にして収率(95%以上)である。更に、本発明方法で製造された粒剤の粒度分布はシャープであり、通常、整粒を必要としない。

本発明の粒剤は、不快な味が遮蔽されている。薬物による不快な味の強さの程度は、薬物の口中(唾液中)での初期溶解速度により左右され、初期溶解速度が小さいときは不快な味の程度も強い。以下においては、薬物として50mg相当量の本発明の粒剤を注射筒にとり、水10mlを加え、30秒間にわたって注射筒を上下に10回反転後、メンブランフィルター(孔径0.45μm)で濾過して得た濾液中の薬物濃度[D30sec; mg/ml]をもって不快な味の強さの程度の一つの尺度とする。

不快な味の薬物として、ピリドンカルボン酸系抗凝固剤を本発明方法に従って調製するときD30sec値は0.15mg/ml以下であり、好しい条件下で調製するときは0.1mg/ml以下となる。

本発明の粒剤は、このように初期における溶解度が小さく不快な味は遮蔽されているが、その後は速やかに薬物を溶出する。例えば、薬物として50mg相当量の本発明の粒剤をパドル法による溶出試験(試験液: 900mlの水、回転数: 50rpm、温度: 37℃)に付すとき、15分間における薬物の溶出率(D15min)は85%以上であり、30分間における溶出率(D30min)は90%以上である。

具体例

次に実施例ならびに比較例を挙げて本発明を更に具体的に説明する。

(以下余白)

実施例 1

処 方

ピリドンカルボン酸A	20 %	1000g
ショ糖脂肪酸エステル (リコトールシュガーエステル 170)	15 %	750g
メタアクリル酸メチル-メタアクリル酸 塩化トリメチルアンモニウム (オイドラギッド RL)	7.5 %	375g
低置換度ヒドロキシプロピルセルロース	45 %	2250g
乳糖	12.5 %	625g
ステアリン酸マグネシウム	1 %	50g
計	101 %	5050g

(I) 一次粒剤(造粒工程)

ピリドンカルボン酸Aを予め粉砕機(バルベライザー; ホソカワミクロン社)で粉砕し、これとステアリン酸マグネシウム以外の各成分を高速度作機(パーチカルグラニューレータードM-VG-25型; 富士産業社)に入れ1分間混合する。これに99.5%エタノール1250g(25%)をロータを通して注加し3～5分間造粒する。造粒品を箱型送風乾燥機に入れ40℃で12時間乾燥する。フィニッシャー(雄鉄工所)で32メッシュを通過せしめて

一次粒剤4980gを得る。

② 二次粒剤（加熱工程）

一次粒剤を流動層乾燥装置（フローコーターFLO-S型；大川製薬所）に仕込み、品温が60～70℃において1時間流動させ、二次粒剤4970gを得る。

③ 三次粒剤（ステアリン酸Mg添加工程）

VミキサーVM10型（不二パウダル機）に二次粒剤およびステアリン酸マグネシウムを加え50rpmで30分間混合し三次粒剤5000gを得る。

各粒剤の性状は次のとおりである。

（以下余白）

第1表 各粒剤の性状

試験項目	一次粒剤	二次粒剤	三次粒剤
苦味試験	D30 sec 0.95 μg/ml	0.12 μg/ml	0.08 μg/ml
苦味を感じるまでの時間*	約2秒	約30秒	約40秒
溶出率 (%)	D15min 70%	88%	94%
	D30min 88%	99%	99%
見かけの比重 (g/ml)	0.53 g/ml	0.67 g/ml	—
粒度分布	32メッシュ on 7%	5%	—
	32-42メッシュ 45%	50%	—
	42-60メッシュ 28%	32%	—
	60-80メッシュ 11%	7%	—
	80-100メッシュ 2%	—	—
	100-150メッシュ 2%	—	—
	150メッシュ pass 5%	—	—

* 粒剤250mgを口に含むとき、苦味を感じるまでの時間（秒）を示す。

第1表に示すように、本発明の粒剤（二次および三次粒剤）はD30sec値（苦味の指標としての30秒後の溶出量）ならびに15分後および30分後の溶出率（D15minおよびD30min）が低れている。また、一次粒剤は80メッシュを通過する微粒子を

9%も含有しているが、本発明の二次粒剤には全く含まれていない。

実施例 2

下記処方ソニサミドの粒剤を実施例1と同様にして調製した。

処方

ソニサミド	20%	1000g
シ。飽和脂肪酸エステル （リョートーシュガーエステルS-170）	20%	1000g
メタクリル酸メチル—メタクリル酸 塩化トリメチルアンモニウム （オイドラゲットRL）	15%	750g
低置換度ヒドロキシプロピルセルロース	45%	2250g
計	100%	5000g

比較例 1

特開昭63-150220号公報の実施例1に開示されている200メッシュの篩を通過するエチルセルロースを用いて調製した散剤と前記実施例2で調製した粒剤とについて、溶出試験ならびに苦味試験を行い次の結果を得た。

第2表 各製剤の比較

試験項目	本発明	特開昭63-150220
溶出試験	D15min 96%	65%
	D30min 99%	85%
苦味試験	D30sec 39μg/ml	114μg/ml
	苦味を感じるまでの時間*	約55秒

* 第1表と同じ

第2表に示すように本発明の粒剤は特開昭63-150220号公報に開示されている散剤よりも速やかに溶出し、しかも苦味遮感効果がより優れている。

実施例 3

有機溶媒としてイソプロパノールを用いるほかは実施例1と同様にして下記処方の粒剤（D30sec=0.05mg/ml、D15min=93%）4940gを得た。

（以下余白）

処 方

ビリドンカルボン酸A	5%	250g
ショ糖脂肪酸エステル (リョートーシュガーエステルS-170)	15%	750g
メタアクリル酸メチル-メタアクリル酸 塩化トリメチルアンモニウム (オイドラゲットRL)	10%	500g
低置換度ヒドロキシプロピルセルロース	45%	2250g
乳 結	25%	1250g
ステアリン酸マグネシウム	1%	50g
計	101%	5050g

実施例 4

ショ糖脂肪酸エステルとしてリョートーシュガーエステルS-370を用いるほかは実施例1と同様にして、D 30sec = 0.08 mg / mℓ、D 15min = 94%の性状を有する粒剤5010gを得た。

実施例 5

メタアクリル酸メチル-メタアクリル酸塩化トリメチルアンモニウム共重合体としてオイドラゲットRSを用いるほかは実施例2と同様にして、D 30sec = 43 μg / mℓ、D 15min = 98%の性状を有する粒剤4937gを得た。

処 方

ビリドンカルボン酸A	20%	1000g
サラシミツロウ	5%	250g
ヒドロキシプロピルメチルセルロース フタレート(HIP-55)	7.5%	375g
ポリビニルポリピロリドン (ポリプラスドンXL10)	45%	2250g
メチルセルロース	3%	150g
乳 結	19.5%	975g
計	100%	5000g

実施例 6

下記処方の粒剤を実施例1と同様にして調製し、D 30sec = 0.11 mg / mℓ、D 15min = 98%の結果を得た。

処 方

ビリドンカルボン酸A	20%	1000g
ステアリルアルコール	15%	750g
エチルセルロース*	15%	750g
カルボキシメチルセルロース Ca (ECG505)	50%	2500g
ステアリン酸マグネシウム	1%	50g
計	101%	5050g

* トルエン-エタノール(8:2)からなる混液にこのエチルセルロースを5%溶解した前液の25℃における粘度は10cpsである。

実施例 7

下記処方の粒剤を実施例1と同様にして調製し、D 30sec = 0.12 mg / mℓ、D 15min = 95%の結果を得た。

(以下余白)

特許出願人 大日本製薬株式会社
代理人 小 島 一 晃

時間平2-96516 (6)

実施例 6

下記処方方の投与を実施例 1 と同様にして調製し、
 $D_{30\text{sec}} = 0.11 \text{ mE / m}^2$ 、 $D_{15\text{min}} = 98\%$ の結果を得た。

成分	割合
エリキソカルボニル A	20% 1000g
エリキソカルボニル B	15% 750g
エリキソカルボニル C	15% 750g
エリキソカルボニル D	50% 2500g
エリキソカルボニル E	1% 50g
エリキソカルボニル F	101% 5050g
エリキソカルボニル G	1% 50g

エリキソカルボニル A を 5% 溶解した溶液の 25℃ における粘度は 10 cP である。

実施例 7

下記処方方の投与を実施例 1 と同様にして調製し、
 $D_{30\text{sec}} = 0.12 \text{ mE / m}^2$ 、 $D_{15\text{min}} = 95\%$ の結果を得た。

(以下余白)

成分	割合
エリキソカルボニル A	5% 250g
エリキソカルボニル B	15% 750g
エリキソカルボニル C	10% 500g
エリキソカルボニル D	15% 750g
エリキソカルボニル E	25% 1250g
エリキソカルボニル F	1% 50g
エリキソカルボニル G	101% 5050g

実施例 4
 エリキソカルボニル A を 5% 溶解した溶液の 25℃ における粘度は 10 cP である。

実施例 5
 エリキソカルボニル A を 5% 溶解した溶液の 25℃ における粘度は 10 cP である。

実施例 7
 エリキソカルボニル A を 5% 溶解した溶液の 25℃ における粘度は 10 cP である。

成分	割合
エリキソカルボニル A	20% 1000g
エリキソカルボニル B	5% 250g
エリキソカルボニル C	7.5% 375g
エリキソカルボニル D	15% 750g
エリキソカルボニル E	3% 150g
エリキソカルボニル F	19.5% 975g
エリキソカルボニル G	100% 5000g

特許出願人 大日本製薬株式会社
 代理人 小口 一 晃

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TITLE OF INVENTION : Tablet and Preparation Method Thereof

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INVENTORS : M. Ueda, Y. Nakamura, and H. Makida

APPLICANT : Dai Nippon Seiyaku K.K., Osaka, Japan

AGENT : K. Kojima

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REQUEST FOR EXAMINATION : None

Specification

1. Title of invention

Tablet and Preparation Method Thereof

2. Claims

(1) Quick-dissolving tablet for oral administration ("quick-release oral tablet", hereinafter) that has the following properties (1) through (6) and has concealed its unpleasant flavor, containing no more than 40 % by weight ("%", hereinafter) of powdery drug having unpleasant flavor, 2 - 40% of fatty substance having a melting point of 30°C or higher, 3 - 20% of water-insoluble high molecular substance, and 20 - 55% of water-swellaable substance :

1. the tablet as a whole forms a matrix,
2. fatty substance exists in homogeneous and nearly continuous state in the tablet,
3. apparent spepcific gravity of the tablet is from about 0.5 to about 0.7 g/ml,
4. the tablet does not contain substantial amount of fine powder that can pass through a 150 mesh sieve,
5. particle size of the tablet is mainly in about 100 - 1000 µm range, and
6. when the tablet containing 50 mg equivalent of drug is tested for its drug releasing capability by paddle method (test solution = water 900 ml, rotation speed = 50 rpm, temperature = 37°C), more than 85% of drug is released in 15 minutes.

(2) The tablet according to Claim 1, where the powdery drug having unpleasant flavor is a pyridone carboxylic acid type antimicrobial agent or anti-epileptic agent; fatty substance is sugar aliphatic acid ester, higher aliphatic acid, hardened castor oil, higher alcohol and/or wax; water-insoluble high molecular substance is ethyl methacrylate/trimethyl ammonium chloride methacrylate copolymer, ethylcellulose and/or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate; and water-swellaable substance is hydroxypropylcellulose having low degree of substitution, calcium carboxymethylcellulose and/or polyvinyl polypyrrolidone.

(3) The tablet according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, where the powdery drug having unpleasant flavor is 5-amino-1-cyclopropyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperadiny)-1,4-dihydro-4-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid or its hydrate, Enoxacin (SIC) or

Zonisamid (SIC); fatty substance is sugar aliphatic acid ester; water-insoluble high molecular substance is ethyl methacrylate/trimethylammonium chloride methacrylate copolymer; and water-swellaable substance is hydroxypropylcellulose having low degree of substitution.

(4) Preparation method of the tablet described in Claim 1, comprising the step of adding an organic solvent to a mixed powder containing no more than 40% of powdery drug having unpleasant flavor, 2 - 40% of fatty substance having a melting point of 30°C or higher, 3 - 20% of water-insoluble high molecular substance, and 20 - 55% of water-swellaable substance; and the subsequent step of forming a tablet, a step of removing the organic solvent, and a step of heating.

(5) The preparation method according to Claim 4, where the organic solvent is ethanol, isopropanol and/or dichloromethane.

3. Comprehensive explanation of invention

[Field of commercial utility]

This invention relates to a quick-release oral tablet that has concealed the unpleasant flavor.

[Prior art and problems to be solved]

Many reports are available about the method of tableting an oral drug having unpleasant flavor to make it easier to administer. For example, following methods are available. Preparation method of solid medicinal product, by which a slurry containing a film-forming high molecular compound and the drug is sprayed on a carrier [Japanese Kokai Patent, SHO 51-79716(1976)]; preparation method of oral medicinal composition, by which the drug is dispersed in a solution prepared by dissolving the drug in high concentration, and then a pulverizing agent is added to form powder [Japanese Patent, SHO 58-401(1983)]; preparation method of oral drug, by which a bitterness-masking substance is dissolved in a non-flammable organo chlorine solvent to prepared a highly concentrated solution, the drug is added in this solution and agitated to blend, then a light silicic anhydride is added and blended, and finally it is pulverized and then a solution of bitterness-masking substance is added to this powder to form a tablet having fluid layer [Japanese Patent, SHO 58-40529(1983)]; a coating method of solid drug, by which a powder of cellulose ethers having low degree of substitution is dispersed in cellulose ether solution, and the

thus-obtained slurry is used to coat the drug [Japanese Kokai Patent, SHO 53-139715(1978)]; a coating method, by which the drug is dissolved in a solution or dispersion of organic solvent that contains styrene/maleic acid copolymer and wall-forming substance, and then this solution is sprayed and dried [Japanese Kokai Patent, SHO 49-132216(1974)]; and a method by which a melt of waxy substance prepared by dispersing the drug and a substance that can be swollen but can not dissolve in water is sprayed from a nozzle and then cooled to solidify [Japanese Patent, SHO 60-29682(1985)]. With these methods, unpleasant flavor of the drug, such as bitterness, can be concealed.

The common feature of the above-described methods is to use the substance that conceals the unpleasant flavor, in a form such as solution, dispersion or melt. Since the substance that conceals the unpleasant flavor is normally a high molecular film-forming substance, using its solution, dispersion or melt may cause various problems. For example, it may cause problems such as blockage of the equipment such as a spray gun, poor working efficiency caused by difficulty with which to wash the equipments or tools, and significant increase in the amount of solvent that must be used. Using a large amount of organic solvent is not desirable from the viewpoint of prevention of air pollution or fire prevention.

Earlier, the present inventors have developed a preparation method of solid oral drug as a way to solve the above-said problems. Thus, a powdery drug having unpleasant flavor and a powdery substance that can conceal the unpleasant flavor were mixed, an organic solvent that could dissolve the powdery substance was added to the mixture and then it was tabletted, and subsequently the organic solvent was removed [Japanese Kokai Patent, SHO 63-150220(1988)].

Now, the present inventors have conducted an extensive study with a hope to develop a tablet that can conceal the unpleasant flavor and release the drug quickly, and to develop a more advantageous method than the method disclosed in the above-said Japanese Kokai Patent, SHO 63-150220(1988)]. As a result of such investigation, the present inventors have finally perfected this invention.

[Constitution of invention]

This invention relates to a quick-release oral tablet that has the following properties (1) through (6) and has concealed its unpleasant flavor, containing no more than 40% of powdery drug having unpleasant flavor, 2 - 40% of fatty substance

having a melting point of 30°C or higher, 3 - 20% of water-insoluble high molecular substance, and 20 - 55% of water-swellable substance :

1. the tablet as a whole forms a matrix,
2. fatty substance exists in homogeneous and nearly continuous state in the tablet,
3. apparent specific gravity of the tablet is from about 0.5 to about 0.7 g/ml,
4. the tablet does not contain substantial amount of fine powder that can pass through a 150 mesh sieve,
5. particle size of the tablet is mainly in about 100 - 1,000 μ m range, and
6. when the tablet containing 50 mg equivalent of drug is tested for its drug releasing capability by paddle method (test solution = water 900 ml, rotation speed = 50 rpm, temperature = 37°C), more than 85% of drug is released in 15 minutes.

Examples of the powdery drug having unpleasant flavor are pyridone carboxylic acid type antimicrobial agent such as 5-amino-1-cyclopropyl-6,8-difluoro-7-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-1,4-dihydro-4-oxoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid ("pyridone carboxylic acid A", hereinafter) or its hydrate, Enoxacin (SIC), Ofloxacin (SIC), Befloxacin (SIC), Siprofloxane SIC) and so on; macrolide type antibiotics such as Erythromycin; β -lactam type antibiotics such as Penicillin and Cephalosporin derivatives and so on. Fatty substance having a melting point of 30°C or higher, such as sugar aliphatic acid esters available commercially under the trade name Ryoto Sugar Ester S-370 and S-170, higher aliphatic acid such as stearic acid, higher alcohols such as stearyl alcohol, and wax such as bees wax, and their mixture can be used as the fatty substance. And, high molecular substances that can dissolve in an organic solvent such as ethanol, isopropanol, or dichloromethane can be used as the water-insoluble high molecular substance. Examples of such water-insoluble high molecular substance are methyl methacrylate/trimethyl ammonium chloride methacrylate copolymer which is commercially available under the trade name Oidoragit RS (SIC) or RL, ethylcellulose, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate which is commercially available under the trade name HP-55. And, examples of the water-swellable substance are hydroxypropylcellulose having a low degree of substitution (L-HPC), calcium carboxymethylcellulose which is commercially available under the trade name ECG505, and polyvinyl polypyrrolidone which is commercially available under the trade name Polyplasdon XL (SIC), and so on.

In the final tablet, the contents of each components are as follows : no more than 40%, preferably no more than 25%, of the drug having unpleasant flavor; 2 - 40%,

preferably 5 - 20%, of fatty substance; 3 - 20%, preferably 5 - 15%, of water-insoluble high molecular substance, and 20 - 55%, preferably 30 - 50%, of water-swellable substance.

The tablet of this invention can be prepared efficiently, by adding an organic solvent such as ethanol, isopropanol, or dichloromethane to a powder of mixture comprising at least the powdery drug having unpleasant flavor, fatty substance, water-insoluble high molecular substance and water-swellable substance, forming a tablet, removing the organic solvent, and subsequent heating. Mixing of each powdery components, addition of organic solvent, tableting, and removal of organic solvent can be carried out by the methods known in the prior art. For example, after adding the organic solvent to the powder of mixture, blending and forming a tablet, the tablet may be dried to remove the organic solvent. Or, such tablet can be prepared easily by adding powder of each components in a high speed blender, spraying the organic solvent on the agitated powder, and agitating to form a tablet, and subsequently drying the tablet to remove the organic solvent. The method of using a high speed blender is the most desirable method because mixing, addition of organic solvent and tablet formation can be carried out at the same time and the organic solvent can be sprayed on the tablets while the progress of tablet formation is kept under observation. Beside, a binder such as hydroxypropylcellulose or methylcellulose and form-bestowing agent such as lactose may be added and mixed, to carry out the above-said operation, if so desired.

The tablet obtained in the intermediary step of the method of this invention ("primary tablet", hereinafter) is believed to assume a form in which other constitutive components are embedded in the matrix formed by dissolving the water-insoluble high molecular substance in the organic solvent and later removing the organic solvent. And, the fatty substance does not seem to be affected by the organic solvent, and is believed to be dispersed and embedded in the matrix.

Subsequently, the primary tablet is heated. This heating process is carried out at a temperature higher than 30°C for 0.5 - 12 hours. While the primary tablet may be heated and dried on a shelf (1 - 12 hours), heating in a drying apparatus having a fluidized layer for 0.5 - 3 hours is a preferred method. With this treatment, the fatty substance dispersed in the matrix are molten, and after cooling, they solidify in a homogeneous and nearly continuous state. Therefore, heating temperature may differ, depending on the melting point of the fatty substance. Fatty substances that

can melt at 40 - 90°C, preferably at 60 - 75°C, are used. Example of such preferred fatty substance is the sugar aliphatic acid ester having a HLB of 3 or lower. With heat treatment, apparent specific gravity increases from about 0.45 - 0.55 g/ml to about 0.5 - 0.7 g/ml. The fine powder that can pass through a 150 mesh sieve fuse or adhere onto the larger particles, to create a sharp particle size distribution, and the particle size will be mainly in 100 - 1,000 µm range, and surface of the particle is smooth and the number of fine pores decreases.

After heating, it is left to cool. As a result, the tablet of this invention can be prepared efficiently. If 0.1 - 5%, preferably about 1%, of magnesium stearate is added to the tablet before, during, or after the cooling process, fluidity and antistaticity can be improved. Furthermore, it may improve also the releasing rate or strengthen the ability to conceal the unpleasant flavor.

[Effect of invention]

The method of this invention requires a very small amount of organic solvent, and is simple, convenient and has a high yield (more than 95%). Furthermore, the tablets prepared by the method of this invention shows a very sharp particle size distribution, and therefore it does not require adjustment of the particle size.

In the tablet of this invention, unpleasant flavor is concealed. Extent of the intensity of unpleasant flavor caused by the drug is controlled by the initial rate of dissolution of the drug in the mouth (in saliver). If the initial rate of dissolution is slow, the tablet will have a low level of unpleasant flavor. In the following, the tablet of this invention corresponding to 50 mg equivalent of drug was taken in a syringe. Water 10 ml was added. After shaking the syringe 10 times up and down for 30 seconds, content of the syringe was filtered through a membrane filter (pore size = 0.45 µm). Concentration of the drug in the thus-obtained filtrate [$D_{30 \text{ seconds}}$: mg/ml] was measured, and it was used as a measure of the level of intensity of unpleasant flavor. When pyridone carboxylic acid type antimicrobial agent as the drug having unpleasant flavor was prepared by the method of this invention, $D_{30 \text{ seconds}}$ was less than 0.15 mg/ml. And, when it was prepared under a favorable condition, $D_{30 \text{ seconds}}$ was less than 0.1 mg/ml.

With the tablet of this invention, rate of dissolution in the initial stage was slow and the unpleasant flavor was concealed. However, later it released the drug quickly. For example, when the tablet of this invention having 50 mg equivalent of

drug was used to run the drug releasing test by paddle method (test solution = water 900 ml, rotation speed = 50 rpm, temperature = 37°C), rate of release of the drug in 15 minutes ($D_{5 \text{ minutes}}$) was more than 85%, and rate of release of drug in 30 minutes ($D_{30 \text{ minutes}}$) was more than 90%.

[Examples]

Examples and Comparative Examples are mentioned in the following to further explain this invention.

Example 1

[Protocol]

Pyridone carboxylic acid A	20%	1000 g
Sugar aliphatic acid ester (Ryoto Sugar Ester 170)	15%	750 g
Methyl methacrylate/trimethylammonium chloride methacrylate [Oidoragit RL (SIC)]	7.5%	375 g
Hydroxypropylcellulose having low degree of substitution	45%	2250 g
Lactose	12.5%	625 g
Magnesium stearate	1%	50 g
Total		101% 5050 g

(1) Primary tablet (Tabletting process) :

Pyridone carboxylic acid A was pulverized in a pulverizer (manufactured by Hosokawa Micron K.K.). This powder and other components, except magnesium stearate, were placed in a high speed blender (Vertical Granulator FM-VG25, manufactured by Fuji Sangyo K.K.), and they were blended for 1 minute. 99.5% ethanol 1250 g (25%) was added in this mixture through a funnel, and they were tabletted for 3 - 5 minutes. Formed tablets were placed in a box-shaped ventilated oven, and dried at 40°C for 12 hours. Then, they were allowed to pass through a 32 mesh sieve by means of a Twin Rotor (manufactured by Hata Tekkosho K.K.), to obtain primary tablets 4980 g.

(2) Secondary tablet (Heating process) :

Primary tablets were charged in a drying apparatus having a fluidized layer (Flow Coater FLO-5, manufactured by Ohkawa Seisakusho K.K.), and they were allowed to flow at 60 - 70°C for 1 hour, to obtain secondary tablets 4970 g.

(3) Tertiary tablets (Magnesium stearate adding process) :

Secondary tables and magnesium stearate were added in a V-mixer (model VM-10, manufactured by Fuji Powdal K.K.), and they were blended at 50 rpm for 30 minutes, to obtain tertiary tablets 5000 g.

Properties of each tablets are shown in the following table.

Table 1

Properties of tablets

Property tested	Primary tablet	Secondary tablet	Tertiary tablet
<u>Test for bitterness</u>			
D _{30 seconds}	0.95 mg/ml	0.12 mg/ml	0.08 mg/ml
Time required to feel bitterness	About 2 sec.	About 30 sec.	About 40 sec.
<u>Releasing rate (%)</u>			
D _{15 minutes}	70%	88%	94%
D _{30 minutes}	88%	99%	99%
Apparent specific gravity (g/ml)	0.53 g/ml	0.67 g/ml	—
<u>Particle size distribution</u>			
32 mesh on	7%	5%	—
32 - 42 mesh	45%	56%	—
42 - 60 mesh	28%	32%	—
60 - 80 mesh	11%	7%	—
80 - 100 mesh	2%	—	—
100 - 150 mesh	2%	—	—
150 mesh pass	5%	—	—

* Indicates the time (seconds) required to start feeling bitterness when a tablet (250 mg) is placed in the mouth.

As illustrated in Table 1, the tablets of this invention (secondary and tertiary tablets) have excellent D_{30 seconds} (amount of drug released after 30 seconds, to indicate the degree of bitterness) and excellent D_{15 minutes} and D_{30 minutes} (rates of release after 15 minutes and after 30 minutes). And, even though the primary tablet contained fine particles that passed through the 80 mesh sieve, such fine particles were not found in the secondary tablet of this invention.

Example 2

Tablet of zonisamid having the following formula was prepared by the procedure of Example 1.

[Protocol]

Zonisamid	20%	1000 g
Sugar aliphatic acid ester (Ryoto Sugar Ester S-170)	20%	1000 g
Methyl methacrylate/trimethyl ammonium chloride methacrylate [Oidoragit RL (SIC)]	15%	750 g
Hydroxypropylcellulose having low degree of substitution	45%	2250 g
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Total	100%	5000 g

Comparative Example 1

Table prepared in Example 2 and the dispersing agent prepared from ethylcellulose that could pass through a 200 mesh sieve disclosed in Example 1 of Japanese Kokai Patent SHO 63-150220(1988) were used to run the drug releasing test and bitterness test, and following results were obtained.

Table 2

<u>Items tested</u>	<u>This invention</u>	<u>J.Kokai Patent SHO 63-150220</u>
<u>Releasing test :</u>		
D _{15 minutes}	96%	65%
D _{30 minutes}	99%	85%
<u>Bitterness test :</u>		
D _{30 seconds}	30 µg/ml	114 µg/ml
Time required to feel bitterness*	About 55 seconds	About 40 seconds

* Same as Table 1

As illustrated in Table 2, the tablet of this invention can release the drug faster than the one disclosed in Japanese Kokai Patent, SHO 63-150220 (1988), and its bitterness-concealing effect is better.

Example 3

Procedure of Example 1 was repeated, except using isopropanol as the organic solvent, to obtain tablet 4940 g having the following formula (D_{30 seconds} = 0.05 mg/ml, D_{15 minutes} = 93%).

[Protocol]

Pyridone carboxylic acid	5%	250 g
Sugar aliphatic acid ester (Ryoto Sugar Ester S-170)	15%	750 g
Methyl methacrylate/trimethylammonium chloride methacrylate [Oidoragit RL (SIC)]	10%	500 g
Hydroxypropylcellulose having low degree of substitution	45%	2250 g
Lactose	25%	1250 g
Magnesium stearate	1%	50 g
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Total	101%	5050 g

Example 4

Procedure of Example 1 was repeated, except using Ryoto Sugar Ester S-370 as the sugar aliphatic acid ester, to obtain tablet 5010 g having $D_{30 \text{ seconds}} = 0.08 \text{ mg/ml}$ and $D_{15 \text{ minutes}} = 94\%$.

Example 5

Procedure of Example 2 was repeated, except using Oidoragit RS (SIC) as the methyl methacrylate/trimethyl ammonium chloride methacrylate copolymer, to obtain tablet 4937 g having $D_{30 \text{ seconds}} = 43 \text{ } \mu\text{g/ml}$ and $D_{15 \text{ minutes}} = 98\%$.

Example 6

Following formula and the procedure of Example 1 were employed to obtain tablet having $D_{30 \text{ seconds}} = 0.11 \text{ mg/ml}$ and $D_{15 \text{ minutes}} = 98\%$.

[Protocol]

Pyridone carboxylic acid A	20%	1000 g
Stearyl alcohol	15%	750 g
Ethylcellulose*	15%	750 g
Carboxymethylcellulose-Ca (ECG 505)	50%	2500 g
Magnesium stearate	1%	50 g
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Total	101%	5050 g

* Viscosity of the solution prepared by dissolving ethylcellulose 5% in toluene/ethanol (8 : 2) mixture, at 25°C, was 10 cps.

Exmple 7

Procedure of Example 1 was repeated, using the following formula, to prepare tablet having $D_{30 \text{ seconds}} = 0.12 \text{ mg/ml}$ and $D_{15 \text{ minutes}} = 95\%$.

[Protocol]

Pyridone carboxylic acid A	20%	1000 g
<u>sarashi</u> bee wax	5%	250 g
Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate (HP-55)	7.5%	375 g
Polyvinyl polypyrrolidone (Polyplasdon XL10)	45%	2250 g
Methylcellulose	3%	150 g
Lactose	19.5%	975 g
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Total	100%	5000 g